KODANSHA COMICS

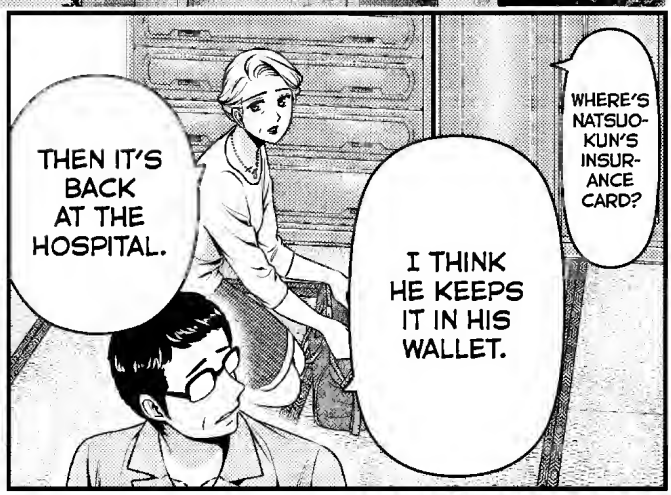
CHAPTER 186

KEI SASUGA

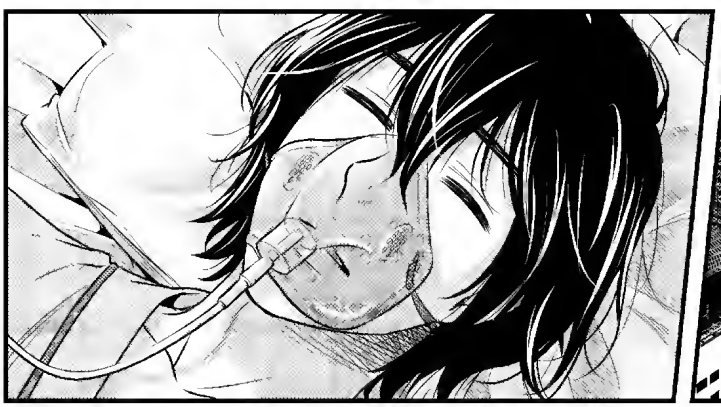
DOME X GIRL

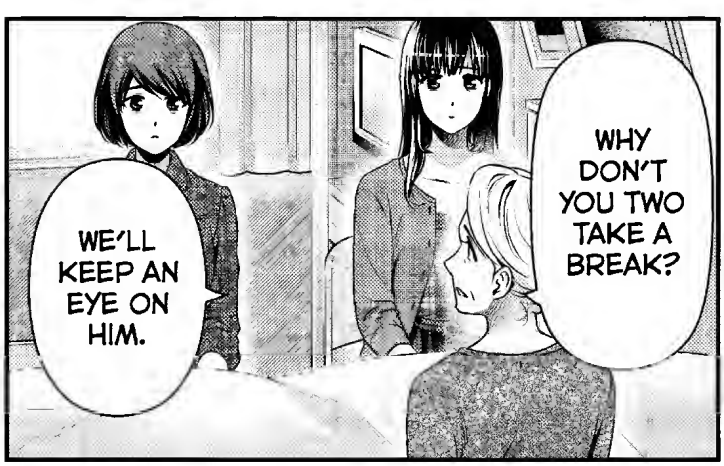
CHAPTER 186: I'M BEGGING YOU...

KEI SASUGA



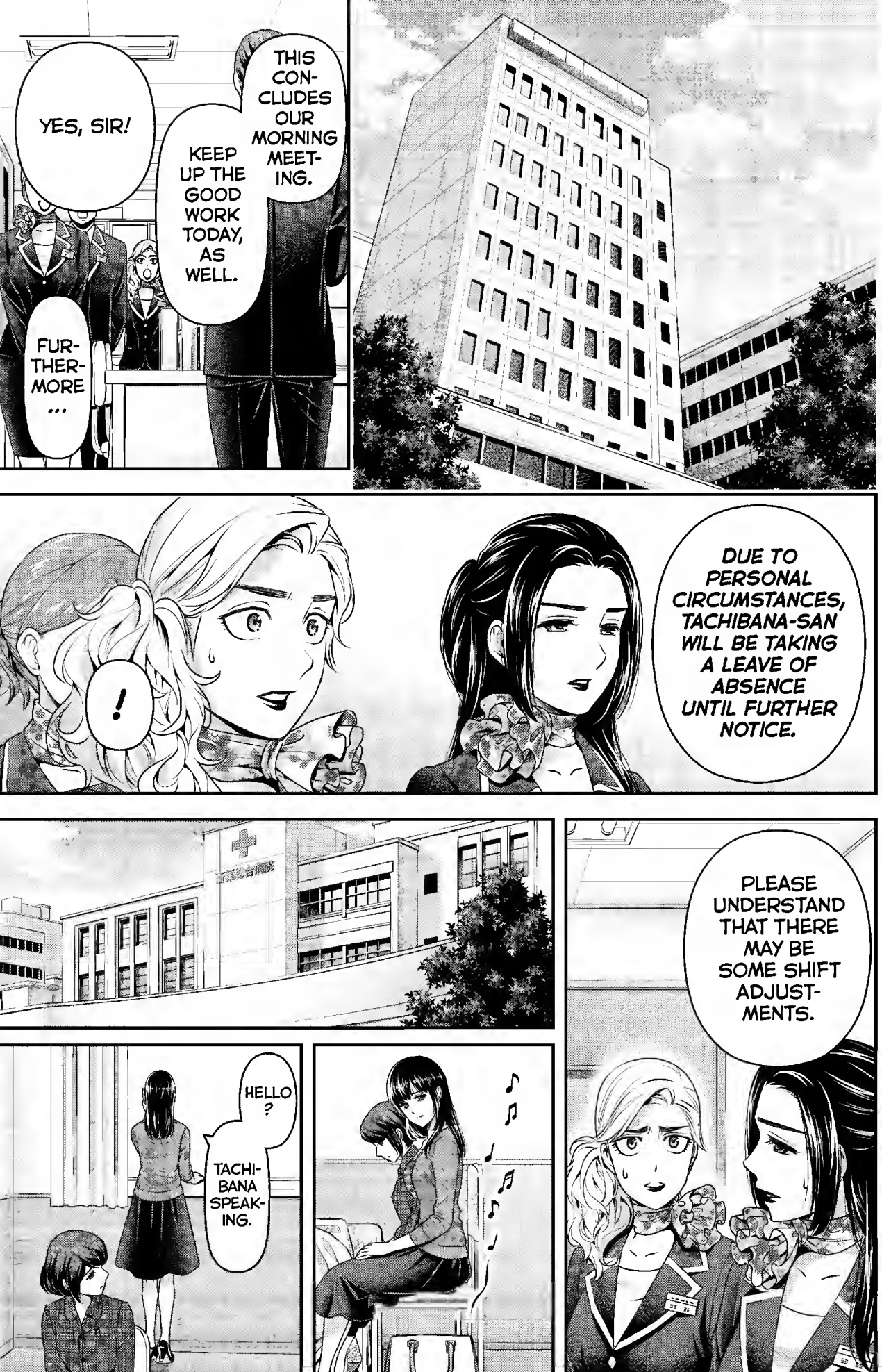
*A PERSONAL STAMP USED FOR OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS IN PLACE OF A SIGNATURE.




WHY DON'T YOU TWO TAKE A BREAK?
WE'LL KEEP AN EYE ON HIM.

THEN AT LEAST CALL WORK AND LET THEM KNOW YOU'RE HERE.
THE POLICE MIGHT WANT YOU FOR MORE QUES-TIONING, HINA.
YOU CAN'T GO TO WORK LIKE THIS, RIGHT?

...

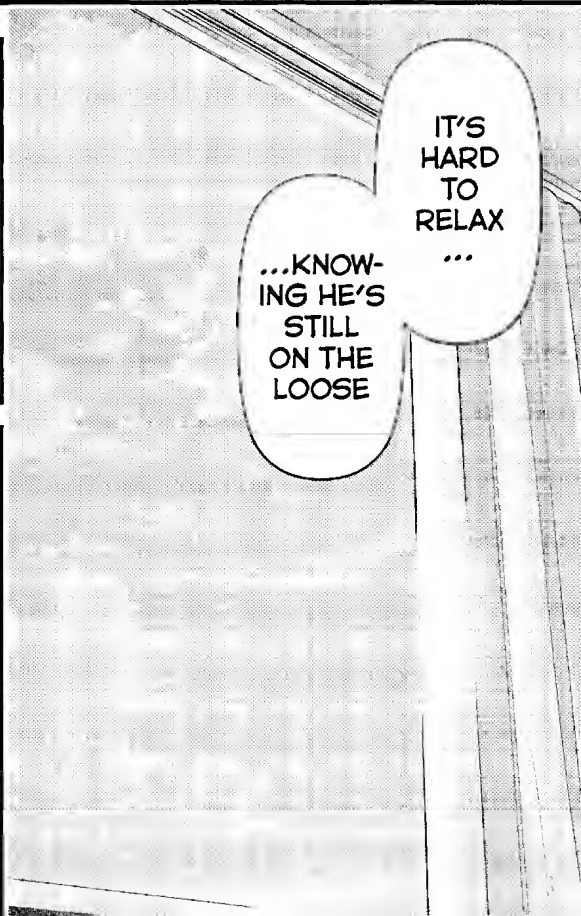

THIS CONCLUDES OUR MORNING MEETING.
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK TODAY, AS WELL.
YES, SIR!
FURTHERMORE ...
DUE TO PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES, TACHIBANA-SAN WILL BE TAKING A LEAVE OF ABSENCE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.
!
PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE MAY BE SOME SHIFT ADJUSTMENTS.
HELLO?
TACHIBANA SPEAKING.

IT'S ALL RIGHT. WE'RE ALLOWED TO MAKE CALLS IN THE ROOM.
...OH, YOU'RE PROBABLY AT THE HOSPITAL ...
OH, OKAY THEN.
THE MANAGER JUST FILLED US IN!
ARE YOU FREE TO TALK RIGHT NOW?!
TACHI-BANA-CHAN ?!
IT'S ME, SUSUKINO!
HOW'S LITTLE BRO DOING?
HIS LIFE'S NOT IN ANY DANGER, IS IT?
YES... HE JUMPED ME ON MY WAY HOME FROM WORK.
YOU'RE KIDDING ...
YOUR STEP-BROTHER WAS STABBED?
WAS IT HIM?
YES ...
I'M FINE...
ARE YOU OKAY ?
TACHI-BANA-SAN.
HE'S STILL IN A COMA.
I DON'T KNOW ...

EXCUSE ME...
KNOCK
KNOCK
HIBIKI!
FATHER TOLD ME WHAT HAP-PENED.
I WAS FLOORED ...
HERE. THESE ARE FOR YOU.
THE CREW MADE PANINIS FOR EVERY-ONE.
WOW ...
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
SORRY. FATHER WANTED TO BE HERE, TOO, BUT HE'S ON A BUSINESS TRIP RIGHT NOW.
IT'S OKAY. I GET IT.
STILL NO SIGN OF NATSUO COMING TO?
AT ALL?
NO...

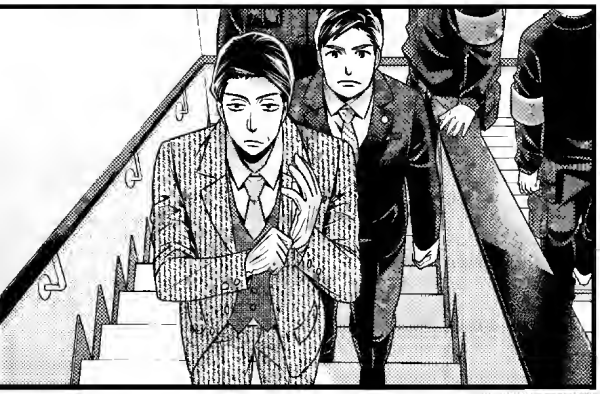
IF IT WAS AN ILLNESS OR AN ACCIDENT, THAT'S ONE THING, BUT...
I CAN'T BELIEVE ...
...THAT SOMETHING SO HORRIFYING HAPPENED TO SOMEONE I KNOW.

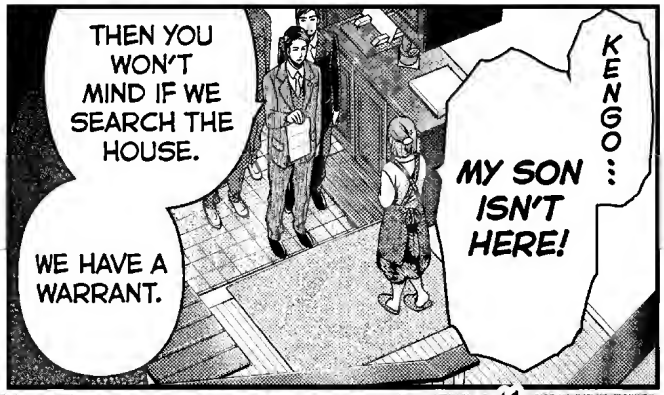
HAVE THEY CAUGHT THE GUY WHO DID IT?
NOT YET...
I'M PRETTY SURE THEY'RE TRACKING HIM DOWN AS WE SPEAK.


IT'S HARD TO RELAX ...
...KNOWING HE'S STILL ON THE LOOSE

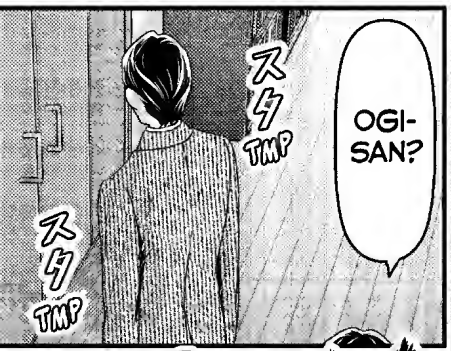
MUMBLE
HE JUST JUMPED IN FRONT OF ME.
MUMBLE
IT'S NOT MY FAULT.
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.

MUMBLE
ブツ
YEAH... I PROBABLY JUST NICKED HIM, ANYWAY.
MUMBLE
ブツ
I'LL JUST GO TO WORK NEXT WEEK LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED.
MUMBLE
ブツ
I GUESS I COULD HEAD OVERSEAS ON MY NEXT VACATION, TOO
MUMBLE
ブツ
OH, YEAH. I NEED TO WITHDRAW SOME CASH...




KENGO...
MY SON ISN'T HERE!
THEN YOU WON'T MIND IF WE SEARCH THE HOUSE.
WE HAVE A WARRANT.

EMPTY...
THINK HE ALREADY SKIPPED TOWN?


OGI-SAN?
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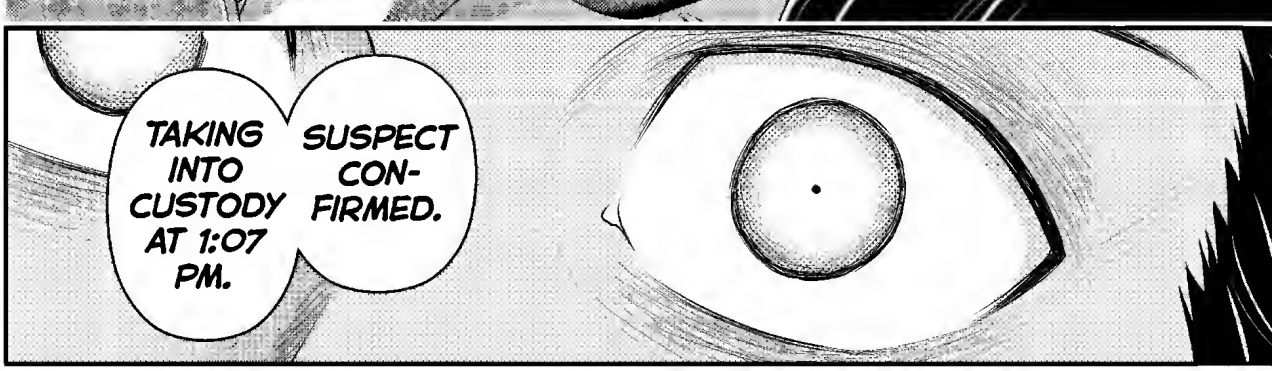

SUSPECT CONFIRMED.
TAKING INTO CUSTODY AT 1:07 PM.

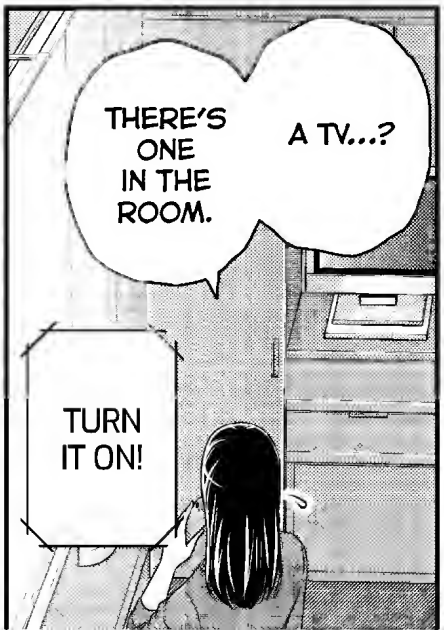
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
GET THOSE CUFFS ON HIM!

AH!
HEY!
FWIP

YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE!
THAT DUMBASS JUMPED IN FRONT OF THE KNIFE!
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG!

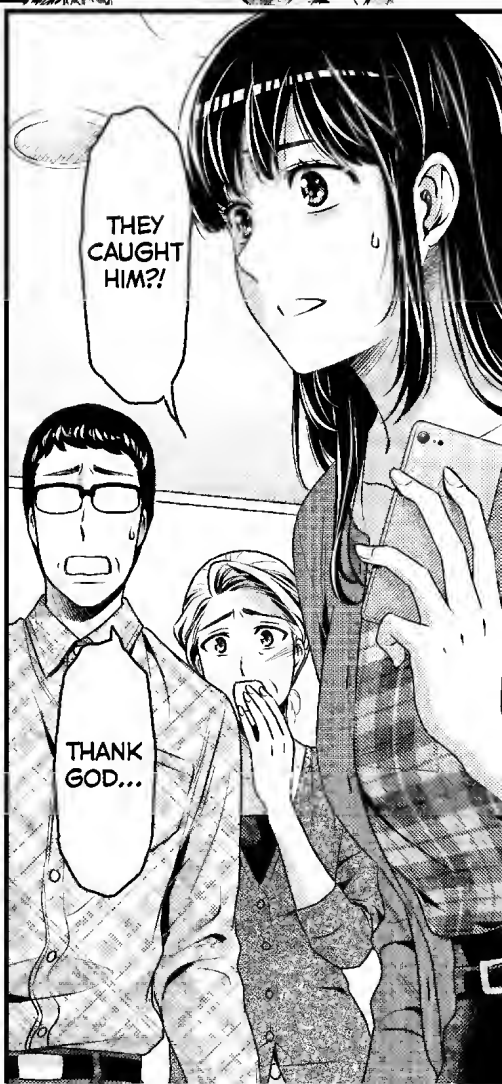
HELLO?
SUSUKINO-SAN?
SORRY I KEEP CALLING YOU!
ARE YOU NEAR A TV?

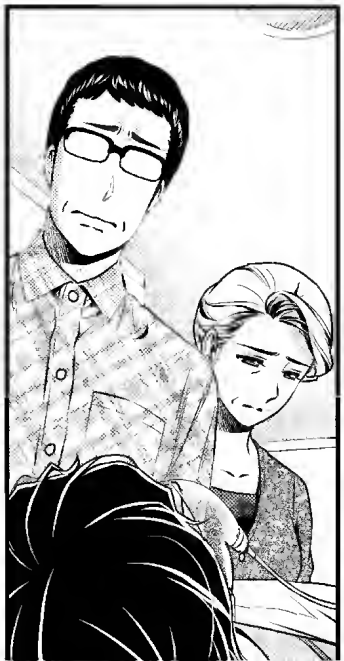
SWITCH TO THE NEWS!


A TV...?
THERE'S ONE IN THE ROOM.
TURN IT ON!

TANABE IS ACCUSED OF STALKING A FEMALE ACQUAINTANCE FOR WEEKS,
UNTIL AROUND 6 PM LAST NIGHT, WHEN HE STABBED THE WOMAN'S YOUNGER BROTHER IN THE SIDE WITH A KNIFE
THE SUSPECT ARRESTED ON CHARGES OF ASSAULT AND STALKING...
...WAS INNER CITY BUSINESS-MAN KENGO TANABE, AGE 28.
ニュース速報
N

YEAH.
YOU CAN REST EASY KNOWING THEY GOT THE BASTARD.
THIS IS GREAT, HINA-CHAN.


THEY CAUGHT HIM?!
THANK GOD...



BUT...
NATSUO-KUN'S STILL...

YOU SHOULD GET SOME SLEEP, TSUKIKO.
DON'T WORRY. I'LL BE FINE.
HOW CAN I SLEEP ...
...WHEN NATSUO-KUN'S LIFE IS IN DANGER LIKE THIS?
I'M SO SORRY, AKIHITO-SAN.
IT'S ALL MY FAULT ...!
IF ONLY I HADN'T TOLD MY CLIENT ABOUT HINA!
TSU-KIKO ...
I LOVE NATSUO-KUN LIKE MY OWN FLESH AND BLOOD!
HE'S ...
...MY ONE AND ONLY SON.

HOW ...
...COULD I LET THIS HAPPEN TO HIM?!
IF...
IF BY ANY CHANCE WORST COMES TO WORST,
I DON'T KNOW...
...HOW I COULD FACE YOU OR JUN-SAN!
"IF ONLY I'D DONE BLANK BACK THEN."
"MAYBE THINGS WOULD'VE BEEN DIFFERENT IF..."
ONCE YOU START THINKING LIKE THAT, THERE'S NO END TO IT.
MAYBE IF YOU COULD PREDICT THE FUTURE, YOU'D NEVER HAVE TO SUFFER.
WHEN MY WIFE PASSED AWAY, I ASKED MYSELF CON-STANTLY,
"WHAT COULD I HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY? HOW COULD I HAVE AVOIDED THIS?"
BUT NO AMOUNT OF HIND-SIGHT WILL CHANGE ANYTHING,
NOR WILL IT BRING YOU ANY PEACE OF MIND.
WHAT WE NEED TO DO NOW ISN'T WALLOW IN RE-MORSE,
BUT HAVE FAITH THAT HE'LL PULL THROUGH.
HNN...
NATSUO-KUN...

JUN-CHAN ...
JUN-CHAN.
IF YOU'RE LISTEN-ING,
PLEASE ...
BRING NATSUO BACK TO US.
I'M BEGGING YOU...

...
HUH
?
WHAT WAS I DOING AGAIN ...?
あ
YAWN

OH, MAN.
I'M BEAT.
LESSEE... I WENT TO WORK, GOT OFF,
THEN I CALLED HINA-NEE AND...
YAWN
NOPE.
TOO TIRED.
NATSUO.
MM...
HUH?
DAD?
RUI?
...
THE HELL?
GUESS I'M JUST HEARING THINGS.
NATSUO.
WHAT? GIMME A BREAK.
WHO'S—

MOM ...?
CLUNK

...
WE SHOULD BE THERE FOR HER IN ANY WAY WE CAN.
THANKS FOR SAVING HINA-NEE.
GRRP
...HINA FEELS EVEN WORSE THAN I DO.
I'M SURE ...
MAYBE ...
...WE SHOULD HAVE LET THEM DO AS THEY PLEASED.
SHE'S PROBABLY ASKING HERSELF WHERE SHE WENT WRONG,
AND WHAT SHE COULD'VE DONE TO PREVENT THIS.

IF NATSUO-KUN AND HINA WERE DESTINED TO FALL IN LOVE,
THEN MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE JUST ACCEPTED IT...
...AND LET THEM BE TOGETHER.